3 GREAT FEATURES! NEWS, COMIC STRIPS AND MORE!

DOCTOR WHO

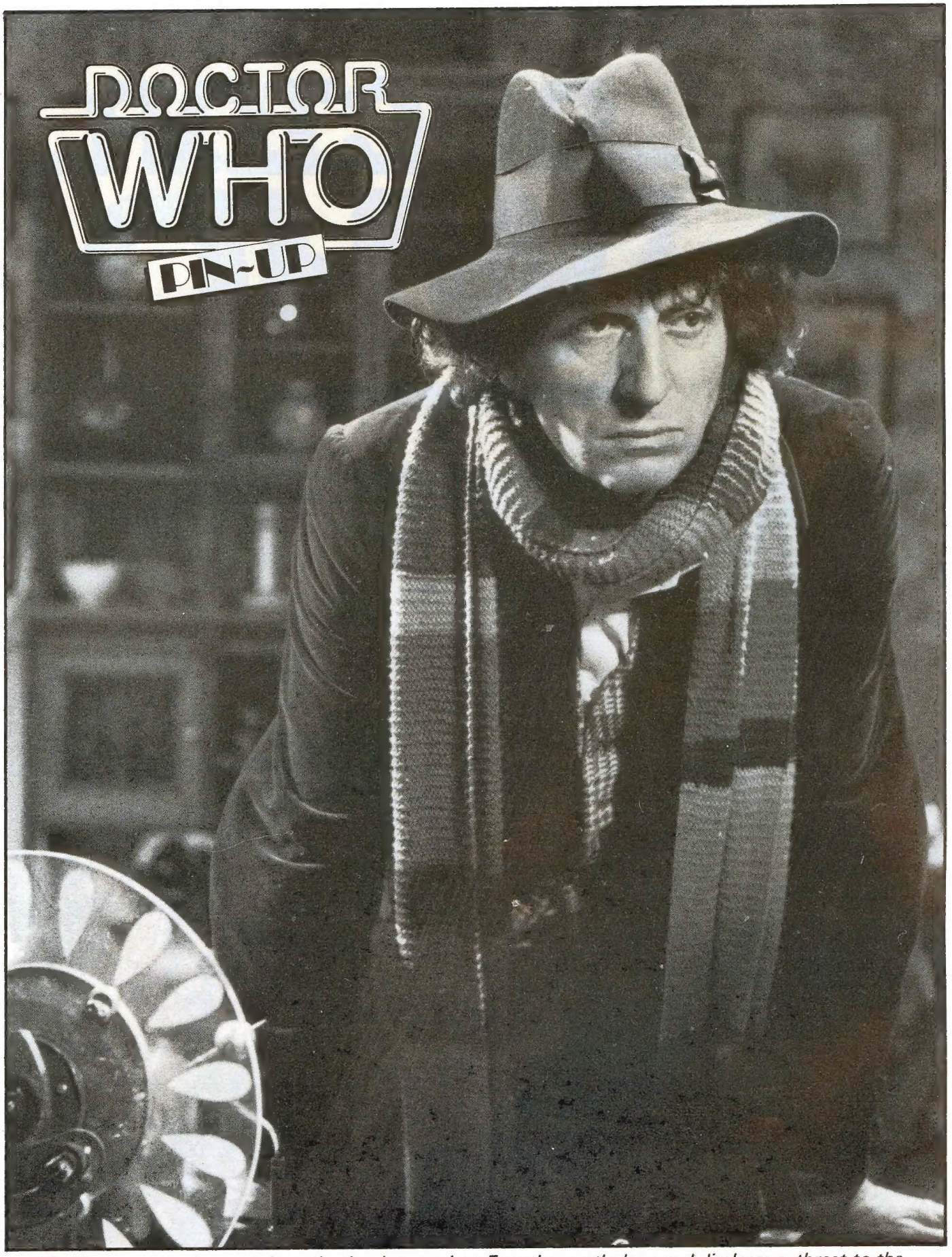
No.46
NOVEMBER

A MARVEL MONTHLY 30p

TO BE WON
250 DR WHO RECORDS!

SEE THE DOCTOR MENACED BY THE POWER OF... MEGLOS!

Meglos, his concentration wavering, finds his hold on the Doctor's body slipping.



The Doctor embarks on an investigation into ancient Egyptian mythology and discloses a threat to the universe in the four part adventure "The Pyramids of Mars".

DOCTOR WHO

No.46 NOVEMBER
Gothscan 2006

Editor: Paul Neary
Features Editor: Alan McKenzie
Art Assistant: Rahid Khan
Consultant: Jeremy Bentham
Production. Nigel Balloch

It was an astounding sight! The arrival of a tenth planet in Earth's solar system . . . ominously heralding the arrival of the dreaded Cybermen! Read this historic account of the first time these inhuman beings entered our lives, remembering that it wasn't to be the last . . .

Meet the Collector, an unsavoury alien academic whose strange hobby is collecting people and things from different times in Earth's past . . then journey with Abslom Daak and his unscrupulous band of alien warriors into yet another awesome, galactic battle!

Also this issue, an incredible opportunity to win one of *250* **Dr Who** new theme tune records! There's so much happening this issue, I really mustn't keep you a second longer from all the excitement that awaits you . . .

Have fun,

The Doctor

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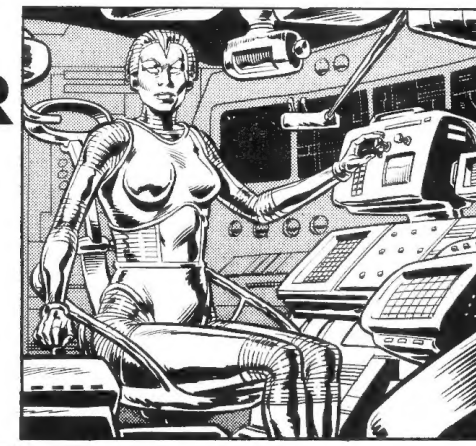
A LONE IMPOSING BUILDING STANDS ISOLATED ON A BARREN, INHOSPITABLE WORLD! TO ESCAPE IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THERE IS REALLY NOWHERE TO GO ONCE CAUGHT IN THE SNARE OF . . . THE COLLECTOR!



STAR TIGERS 31
A FOURTH CREW MEMBER, SNATCHED FROM THE JAWS OF KILL-MECH INVASION FORCE JOINS UP WITH THOSE UNRULY REBELS – THE STAR TIGERS!

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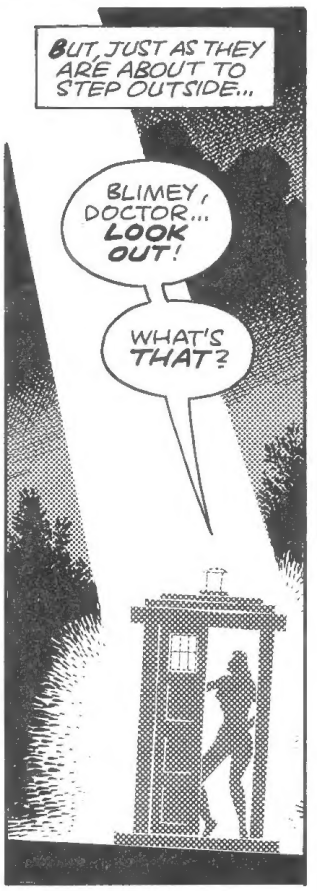
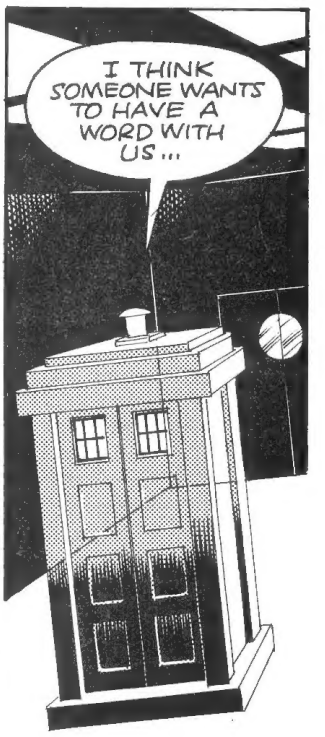
WRITER: STEVE MOORE / ARTIST: DAVE GIBBONS / EDITOR: PAUL NEARY

IN SPITE OF THE RANDOMISER IN THE CONTROLS, I'VE ACTUALLY GOT YOU HOME, SHARON!
TWENTIETH CENTURY BLACKCASTLE, ENGLAND, EARTH!
REALLY, DOCTOR...?

ONLY TROUBLE IS, I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO GO HOME NOW...NOT NOW I'VE GROWN UP!
OH, OF COURSE YOU DO! 'NO PLACE LIKE HOME'!
WHY, I EVEN LIKE GALLIFREY ...SOMETIMES...


BUT, JUST AS THEY ARE ABOUT TO STEP OUTSIDE...
BLIMEY, DOCTOR... LOOK OUT!
WHAT'S THAT?

I'D GUESS WE'VE BEEN PICKED UP BY A TELEPORT-BEAM ...AND IT'S TAKEN THE WHOLE TARDIS WITH IT...
SEEMS HARD TO BELIEVE, I KNOW, BUT...


AND THEN THE TARDIS MAKES ITS SECOND MATERIALISATION IN A MATTER OF MINUTES...
I THINK SOMEONE WANTS TO HAVE A WORD WITH US...

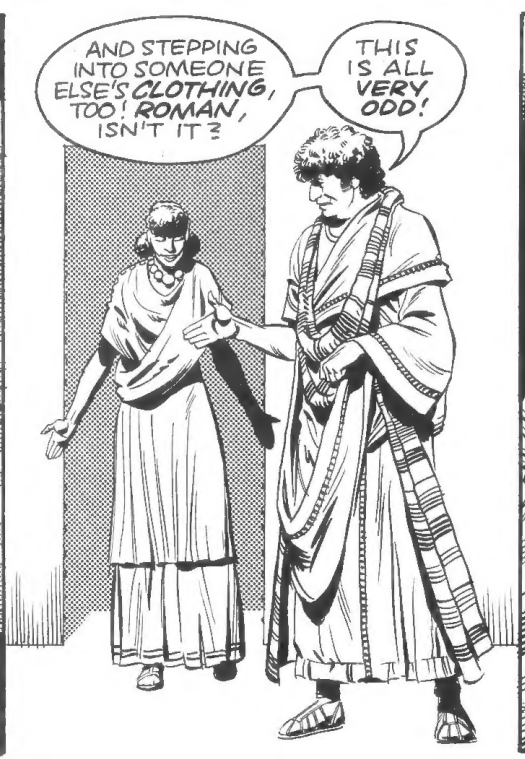
SO NOW WHERE ARE WE, DOCTOR?
AS FAR AS I CAN TELL FROM THIS, WE SEEM TO BE IN THE ASTEROID BELT...
BUT IT APPEARS THERE'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE OUTSIDE...

BUT WHEN THEY EMERGE...
HMM...A COMPLETELY EMPTY ROOM! NO SIGN OF A TELEPORT-MACHINE IN HERE... BUT IT CAN'T BE FAR AWAY!
THESE DOORS ARE LOCKED, DOCTOR!

WELL, WE WON'T LET THAT STOP US HAVING A LOOK ROUND...
STAND BACK, SHARON! K-9 CAN ALWAYS USE SOME MORE PRACTISE IN OPENING DOORS!
WOMPF
AND THERE IS STILL NO SIGN OF A RECEPTION COMMITTEE AS THEY STEP OUT INTO A CORRIDOR...
NO POINT TRYING TO BREAK A WINDOW AND RUN AWAY...
THEY MUST BE ARMOUR-PLATED GLASS TO KEEP THE ATMOSPHERE IN...
AND BESIDES, THERE DOESN'T REALLY SEEM TO BE ANY-WHERE TO GO...

WHAT ABOUT THESE FUNNY LOOKING DOOR-WAYS, THEN?
AH! A PLASMATIC FORCE-FIELD! MEANT TO STOP ANYONE GOING THROUGH ... OR SEEING THROUGH!
STILL, I EXPECT MY OLD SONIC SCREW-DRIVER'LL SCRAMBLE THE MECHANISM QUITE NICELY...
WZZZZZZZ

AND AS THE PLASMA-FIELD PARTS...
I MUST BE SEEING THINGS! IT'S LIKE STEPPING INTO ANOTHER WORLD!


AND STEPPING INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S CLOTHING, TOO! ROMAN, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS ALL VERY ODD!

BUT THEN THE NEW-COMERS ARE NOTICED...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN MY HOUSE?
OH, UM... JUST DROPPED IN FOR A FRIENDLY CHAT!
LUCIUS! THROW THEM OUT!

BUT MAYBE WE CAN TALK ANOTHER DAY...!
YOU CALLED, SIR...?

ER... BYE!
AND THAT'S ANOTHER ODD THING! WE'VE BOTH BEEN TALKING FLUENT LATIN FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF MINUTES... I ONLY JUST REALISED...

IT'S AS IF WE'D STEPPED INTO A FROZEN MOMENT OF TIME... WHERE EVERYTHING'S EXACTLY AS IT WAS THEN...
BLIMEY! LOOK AT US NOW!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE... EVERYONE IS LOOKING AT US!
EXCUSE US... JUST PASSING THROUGH!

AND AT LAST...
PHEW! BACK IN THE CORRIDOR AGAIN! HELLO, K-9!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO?
I BROUGHT YOU HERE FOR MY TWENTIETH CENTURY ROOM... NOT TO CREATE HAVOC IN THE THIRD AND EIGHTEENTH!

AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE UP TO? KIDNAPPING PEOPLE BY TELEPORT-BEAM AND KEEPING THEM IN TIME-STASIS CAPSULES?
HMM... THIS IS STRANGE! I DIDN'T THINK YOU EARTH-PEOPLE HAD SUCH ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE
NONE OF MY OTHER SPECIMENS DO!

PROBABLY BECAUSE NONE OF YOUR OTHER 'SPECIMENS' ARE TIME-LORDS FROM GALLIFREY!
ACCORDING TO THIS SCANNER, YOU'VE GOT TWO HEART-BEATS!
OH DEAR! I KNEW SHE'D MAKE A MISTAKE SOONER OR LATER!

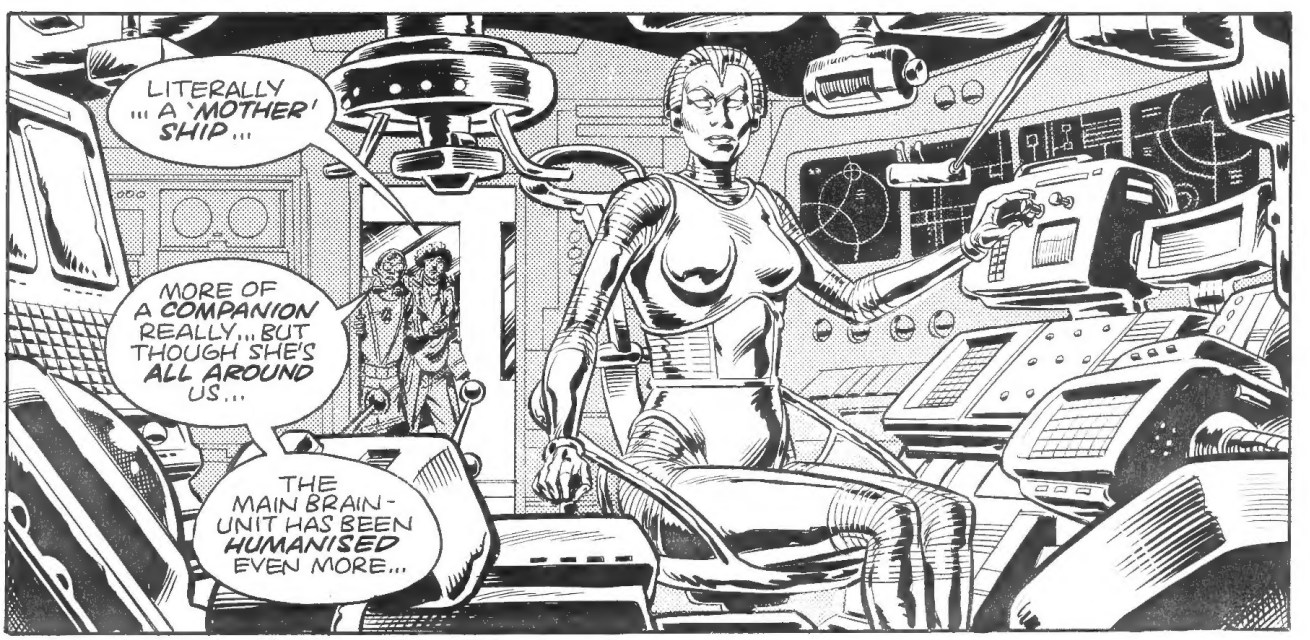
FUNNY THAT... I DIDN'T THINK EARTH HAD MANY OFF-PLANET VISITORS!
WELL, I'LL GET HER TO SEND YOU BACK! SORRY YOU'VE BEEN TROUBLED!
JUST LIKE THAT? I THINK WE DESERVE AN EXPLANATION, AT LEAST!

YES, I SUPPOSE YOU DO! I'M VARAN TAK, FROM THE ANTHROPOLOGY UNIT ON OSKERION...
I WAS GOING TO EARTH TO STUDY THE DEVELOPING CIVILISATION THERE... WHEN WAS IT? ABOUT TWO THOUSAND YEARS AGO...! WE WERE THIS CLOSE WHEN A ROGUE ASTEROID KNOCKED OUT THE DRIVE-UNIT... AND MOST OF THE COMMUNICATIONS, TOO...
"PROBABLY STILL BE ANOTHER HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE OUR DISTRESS CALL'S PICKED UP! I'LL BE MIDDLE-AGED BY THEN!"

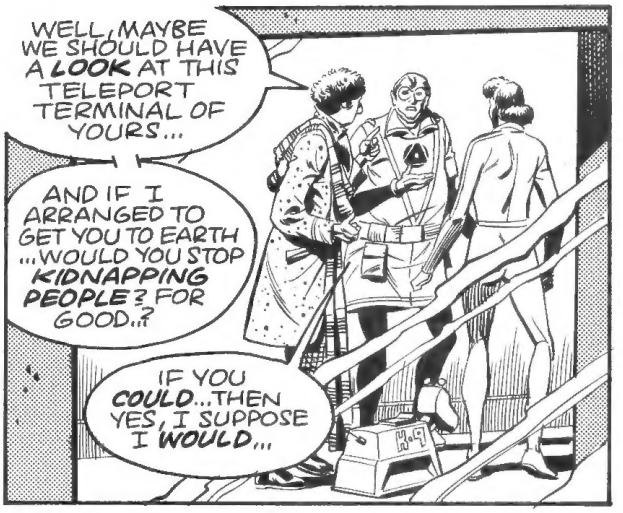
SHE MANAGED TO PUT US DOWN HERE... AND SHE'S BUILT ALL THIS TO KEEP ME ALIVE AND COMFORTABLE...
ALONG WITH THE SHORT-RANGE TELEPORT TERMINAL... USEFUL THAT...

THAT'S HOW I PICK UP SPECIMENS FOR MY ANTHROPOLOGICAL COLLECTION... OH, MAYBE IT'S WRONG TO KIDNAP THEM... BUT STUDY KEEPS ME SANE...
PERHAPS! BUT WHO'S THIS 'SHE'?

WHY... THE SHIP HERSELF! EXCEPT SHE'S REBUILT HERSELF INTO THIS HOUSE NOW...
BUT THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE'S A CONSCIOUS INTELLIGENT COMPUTER, WHOSE FUNCTIONS ARE TO PROTECT AND SUSTAIN ME...
WITH FEMINISED VOCAL AND BEHAVIOURAL PATTERNS...


LITERALLY ... A 'MOTHER' SHIP...
MORE OF A COMPANION REALLY... BUT THOUGH SHE'S ALL AROUND US...
THE MAIN BRAIN-UNIT HAS BEEN HUMANISED EVEN MORE...

BUT WHY DON'T YOU JUST TELEPORT TO EARTH YOURSELF?
HOW I WISH I COULD! SHE'LL AGREE TO SEND YOU BACK...
BUT FOR SOME REASON SHE REFUSES TO LET ME LEAVE!


WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE A LOOK AT THIS TELEPORT TERMINAL OF YOURS...
AND IF I ARRANGED TO GET YOU TO EARTH ...WOULD YOU STOP KIDNAPPING PEOPLE? FOR GOOD...?
IF YOU COULD...THEN YES, I SUPPOSE I WOULD...

BUT...
SEE! I CAN'T GET NEAR IT... THAT COMES ON AUTOMATICALLY EVERY TIME I APPROACH!
HMM...NASTY LITTLE ELECTRIC ARC PROJECTOR UP THERE...BIT TOO COMPLICATED FOR THE SONIC SCREW-DRIVER...
THIS IS A JOB FOR YOU, K-9 ...PINPOINT BLASTING!

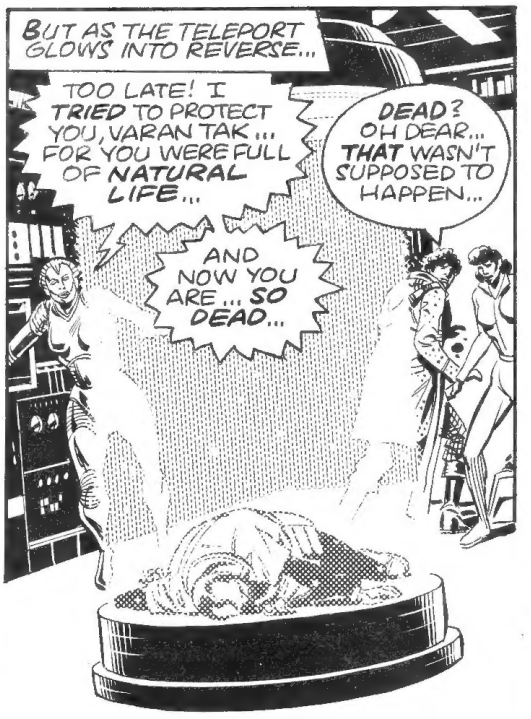
ALRIGHT, VARAN TAK, THAT SHOULD HAVE CLEARED UP THE PROBLEM...SO THAT'S OUR SIDE OF THE BARGAIN!
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP YOURS!

I WILL ...AND I'LL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL!
WELL, THAT SEEMS TO WRAP THAT UP, SHARON!
WASN'T SUCH A BAD SORT, AFTER ALL...

SO LET'S GET BACK TO THE TARDIS BEFORE ...OOPS!
WHAT... HAVE YOU DONE?

K-9... SWITCH TO ELECTRONIC SCRAMBLE...
OH, NO!
SWITCH
K-9!

POOR OLD K-9! WHAT WILL I DO WITHOUT YOU?
DOCTOR ... THE ROBOT...
FOOLS! ALL OF YOU ...AND VARAN TAK MOST OF ALL!


BUT AS THE TELEPORT GLOWS INTO REVERSE...
TOO LATE! I TRIED TO PROTECT YOU, VARAN TAK... FOR YOU WERE FULL OF NATURAL LIFE...
DEAD? OH DEAR... THAT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN...
AND NOW YOU ARE... SO DEAD...

POISONED...HE HAD NO RESISTANCE TO THE INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION... IN YOUR EARTH'S AIR...
THAT'S WHY... IN RECENT CENTURIES...I I WOULD NOT LET HIM GO!
SHE SEEMS QUITE UPSET, DOCTOR...FOR A ROBOT...

AND WHY NOT? I HAVE... CHERISHED HIM FOR TWENTY CENTURIES... AND NOW...
EVEN A ROBOT CAN FEEL... LONELY...

BUT THEN...
THE INSTRUMENT READINGS WHEN WE LANDED WERE ODD... PERHAPS THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS....
BUT IT WOULD MEAN NO MORE TELEPORT-KIDNAPPINGS TO KEEP VARAN TAK HAPPY...!
I DO NOT...UNDERSTAND... BUT IF YOU CAN RESTORE HIM TO LIFE!

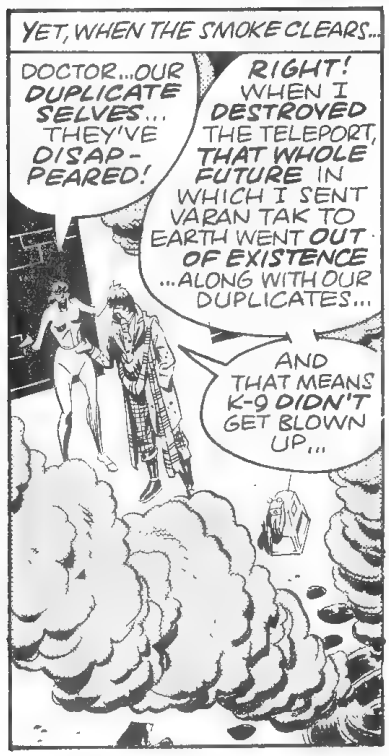
ANOTHER MINUTE FINDS THE THREE WHO REMAIN INSIDE THE TARDIS...
I'M HOPING THE RANDOMISER WON'T COME INTO PLAY... AS WE'RE NOT ACTUALLY GOING ANYWHERE...
BUT I THINK WE CAN UTILISE THE TIME-STASIS FIELDS AROUND US TO DO SOMETHING RATHER CLEVER...

AND WHEN THE TARDIS'S MIGHTY ENGINES AGAIN FADE INTO SILENCE...
WE ARE... STILL IN THE SAME PLACE! HOW CAN THIS HELP?
SAME PLACE... DIFFERENT TIME...I THINK! COME ON...
AND HOPE I'VE GOT THIS RIGHT!

RIGHT INDEED, FOR THEY HAVE HOPPED BACK MERE MINUTES, TO...
HMM... NASTY LITTLE ELECTRIC ARC PROJECTOR UP THERE... BIT TOO COMPLICATED FOR...
ONLY ONE WAY QUICK ENOUGH TO STOP THIS... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO...

SOCK MYSELF ON THE JAW!
WOK!
OOF!

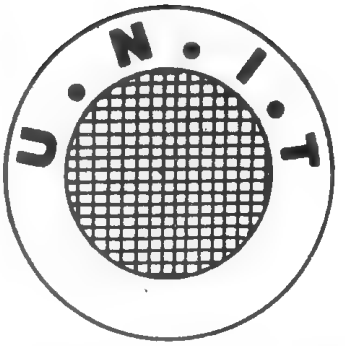
NOW, K-9... BLAST THE TELEPORT DEVICE! COMPLETE DESTRUCTION!
NO!
AND THE ROOM REELS WITH A BLINDING, EXPLOSIVE FLASH...
BA-WOOMPF!


YET, WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS...
DOCTOR... OUR DUPLICATE SELVES... THEY'VE DISAP-PEARED!
RIGHT! WHEN I DESTROYED THE TELEPORT, THAT WHOLE FUTURE IN WHICH I SENT VARAN TAK TO EARTH WENT OUT OF EXISTENCE ...ALONG WITH OUR DUPLICATES...
AND THAT MEANS K-9 DIDN'T GET BLOWN UP...

AND VARAN TAK'S STILL ALIVE, TOO!
STILL ALIVE? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN TO ME?

WELL, I'M SURE SHE'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO TELL YOU WHILE YOU'RE WAITING TO BE PICKED UP! AFTER ALL, SHE SAW IT HAPPEN...
AND NOW I THINK WE'LL GET BACK TO THE TARDIS ... BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS TO US!
THE END.

UNIT HOTLINE



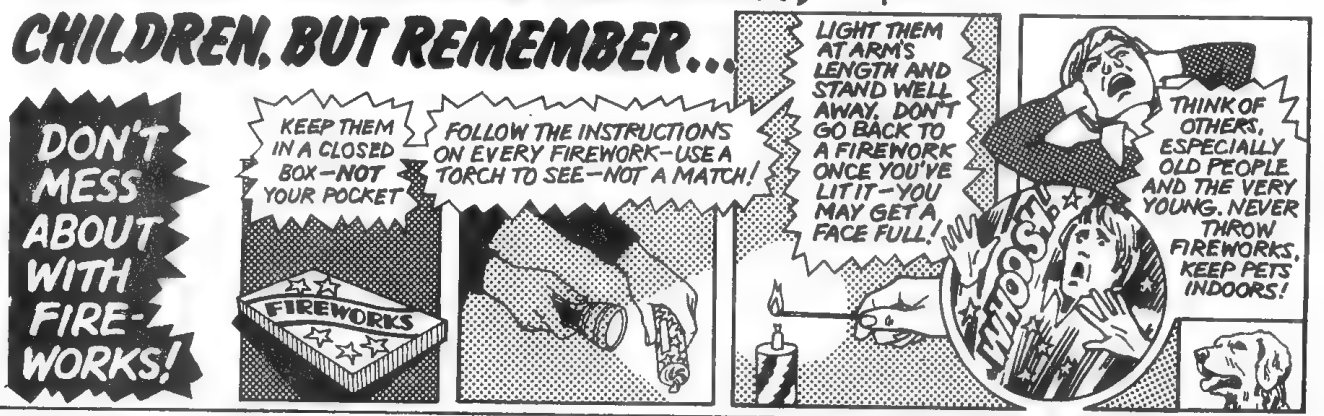
Attention all UNIT undercover agents! Here are this week's coded messages hot from HQ!

SECURITY CODE GREEN

ZAQG WEZGT UX GTA XAFAZGAAZGT IZZUFAMXIMN EP KM LTE IZK GE HARASMIGA GTIG PIHG EOM OZKAMHEFAM WICIVUZA UX GE TIFA IZ AQGMI AUCTG DICA DORR-EOG EZ GTA TUXGEMN EP GTA DMECMIWWA. LA IKFUXA IRR OZUG WAWSAMX GE MAIK UG!

UNIT SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE BRIGADIER~

HAVE FUN ON FIREWORKS NIGHT, CHILDREN, BUT REMEMBER...



19 PRIMORDS KNOW YOUR ENEMY

PLANET OF ORIGIN: Earth

OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY: Savage strength, body radiates searing heat. The touch of a Primord can infect the victim with the same chemical agent which caused the mutation in the original Primord.

HISTORY: A green chemical formed naturally very close to the Earth's subterranean crust is thought to be the cause of the infection which mutates men into Primords.

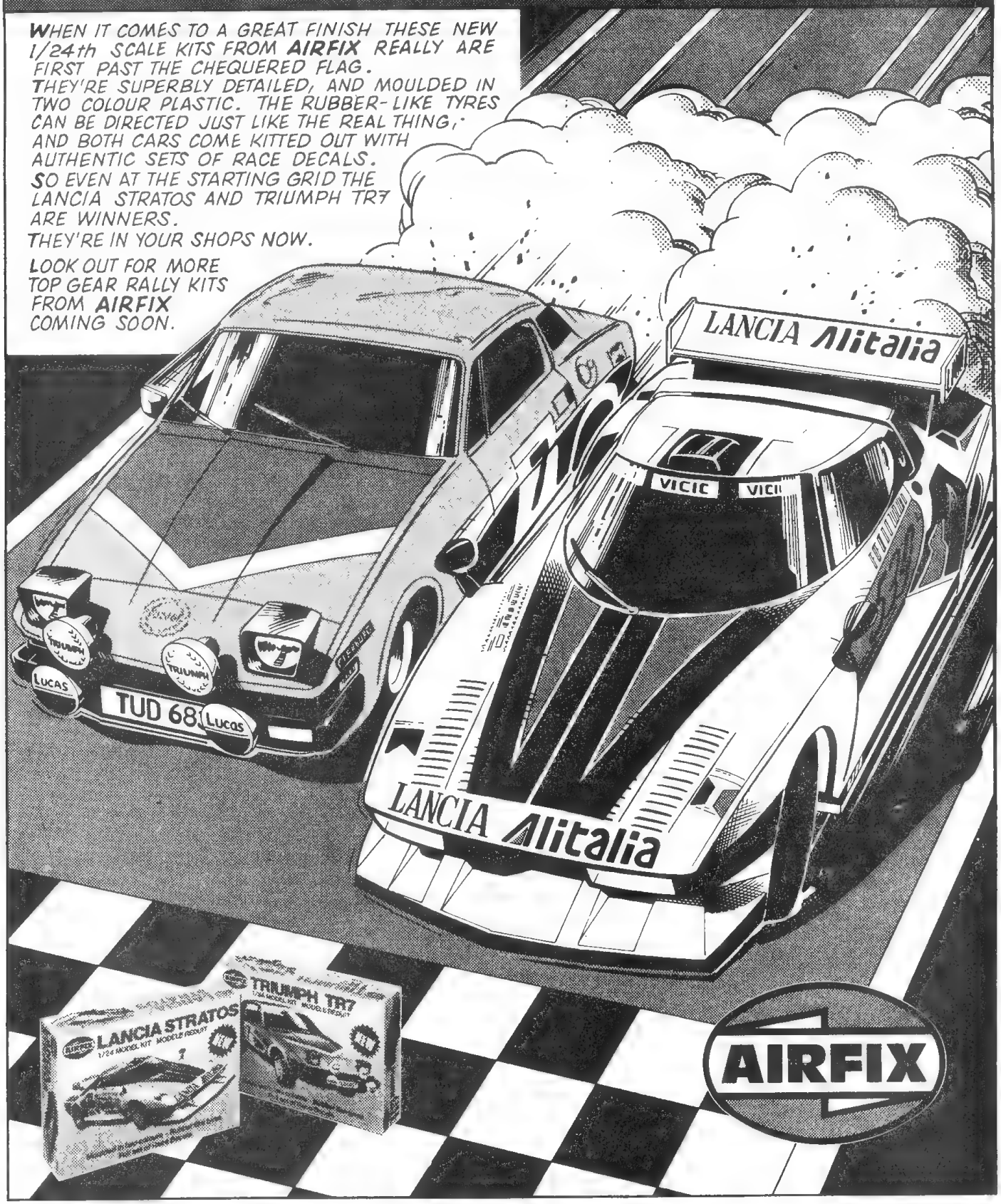
During excavation drilling at the now closed down Project Inferno, a quantity of the liquid seeped to the surface via the bore hole. Physical contact with the liquid would induce madness and side effects akin to Rabies in the victims. Coarse hair on the skin and a severe rise in body temperature would subsequently occur. At this stage, contact with the victim should be avoided where possible as the Primord can infect others through touch. Full metamorphosis only happens when the external temperature rises above blood heat. In that stage the creature loses all semblance of humanity and reverts in shape and mind to a savage, wolf-like monster.

All UNIT members should report a Primord sighting immediately.

ONE OF THE BEST FINISHES SEEN IN RACING HISTORY

WHEN IT COMES TO A GREAT FINISH THESE NEW 1/24th SCALE KITS FROM **AIRFIX** REALLY ARE FIRST PAST THE CHEQUERED FLAG.
THEY'RE SUPERBLY DETAILED, AND MOULDED IN TWO COLOUR PLASTIC. THE RUBBER-LIKE TYRES CAN BE DIRECTED JUST LIKE THE REAL THING, AND BOTH CARS COME KITTED OUT WITH AUTHENTIC SETS OF RACE DECALS.
SO EVEN AT THE STARTING GRID THE LANCIA STRATOS AND TRIUMPH TR7 ARE WINNERS.
THEY'RE IN YOUR SHOPS NOW.

LOOK OUT FOR MORE TOP GEAR RALLY KITS FROM **AIRFIX** COMING SOON.



Star Profile

IAN MARTER

Early in the spring of next year, Target Books will release the seventh in their range of **Dr Who** novels featuring the Doctor's second incarnation. It will be quite a treat for fans of the second Doctor as the story also features a villain played on television by Troughton himself, the ruthless political schemer, Salamander!

What is perhaps most surprising of all is that the book has been written by actor Ian Marter, previously known for his three adaptations of Tom Baker stories — an era of the programme with which he had many connections.

Initially, after reading the script, Ian Marter was a bit daunted by the idea of tackling an old story, especially as he had no visual references to help him. Luckily Ian was able to view the one episode of "Enemy of the World" still intact at the BBC, and from the notes he took, began arranging his very unique style of writing to fit the people and events of the serial. Simple facts, not apparent in the script, such as the woman Fariah being black, intrigued him, and made for a more interesting approach to the book. This was more endearing to the author and thus, hopefully, to the readers.

In transcribing the TV series "Enemy of the World" into text form, Ian was confronted by many sequences that needed a great deal of thought to be dealt with effectively in a non-visual medium. The story had a decidedly political bent and was heavy on dialogue and contained very few special effects. One of Ian's problems was, for instance, how to represent a conversation over video monitor accurately without recourse to the many visual tricks available to the television Producer. The interest that might be generated by cutting between cameras or by altering the angle of view would have to be echoed by Ian in terms of careful editing of ambiguous conversation, or by alteration of the context in which certain information is imparted to the reader.

Ian Marter's style of writing differs from those of his Target contemporaries, such as Philip Hinchliffe and Terrance Dicks, in that he tends to "flesh out" the stories, often adding bits that were never seen on television! Questioned about this, Ian confirmed he had received many letters accusing him of heresy from die-hard fans but added in reply his belief that a book should do more than just replay the screen script in paragraph form! On the topic of writing for children Ian outlined his philosophy of never writing downwards for a younger readership, adding that, editor permitting, "Enemy of the World" will contain strong words simply because they are now a standard feature of our own language at all ages and should therefore be included in our literature.

"The Ark in Space", Ian Marter's first book for Target, was published in 1977. He had been approached to do this novel during his period of regular acting for **Dr Who** in the part of Surgeon Lieutenant Harry Sullivan. At a dinner function he had got into conversation with the then Editor of Target Books who happened to mention that nobody seemed keen to do "Ark in Space" as a book, because of its very complex and atmospheric plot. This had been a particularly favourite story of Ian Marter's and he jokingly expressed a yearning to tackle it himself. When the editor replied, "Why not?" the seed was planted that shortly afterwards saw Ian sitting down at a typewriter constructing the first chapter.

It was tempting to consider writing the novel from Harry Sullivan's standpoint, confessed Ian, but he had

resisted the urge, feeling that it would have led to awkward roundabout explanations for scenes and events that did not involve Harry. Nevertheless he had used the novel as a vehicle for conveying the feelings of an ordinary man when confronted by a person so unpredictable and as alien as the Doctor.

The second adaptation, "The Sontaran Experiment" fell his way partly again because no-one wanted to tackle a two-part serial and partly because Ian himself wanted to follow on from the ending he had written into "Ark".

To date, his most acclaimed book has been "The Ribos Operation", the opening story in the "Key to Time" series. Ian Marter confided that he had worked predominantly from the script for this one, nevertheless so well did he put over this tale of events on a snow-covered medieval planet that one letter from a fan ruefully wished Ian had been allowed to direct the television story!

Ian Marter's other involvement with **Dr Who** has of course been acting, and talking about his parts in the series Ian sardonically pointed out the obsession the show's Producers had with casting him as a sailor! Back in 1973 he appeared as First Officer Andrews in the Jon Pertwee serial "Carnival of Monsters" aboard a steam ship supposedly cruising in the Indian Ocean. Despite the exotic setting worded in the script, actual location work was shot aboard an obsolete old Fleet Auxiliary ship moored in the Thames Estuary! It was Ian's first encounter with Jon Pertwee, and his principle memory of this was the Director endeavouring to disuade Jon, with his magpie nature, from walking off with several of the ship's brass fittings at the end of the day's filming!

Two years later, Ian was back in a sailor's uniform — this time as a regular character in the series, Harry Sullivan, whose initial appearance coincided with Tom Baker's first portrayal of the Doctor in "Robot".

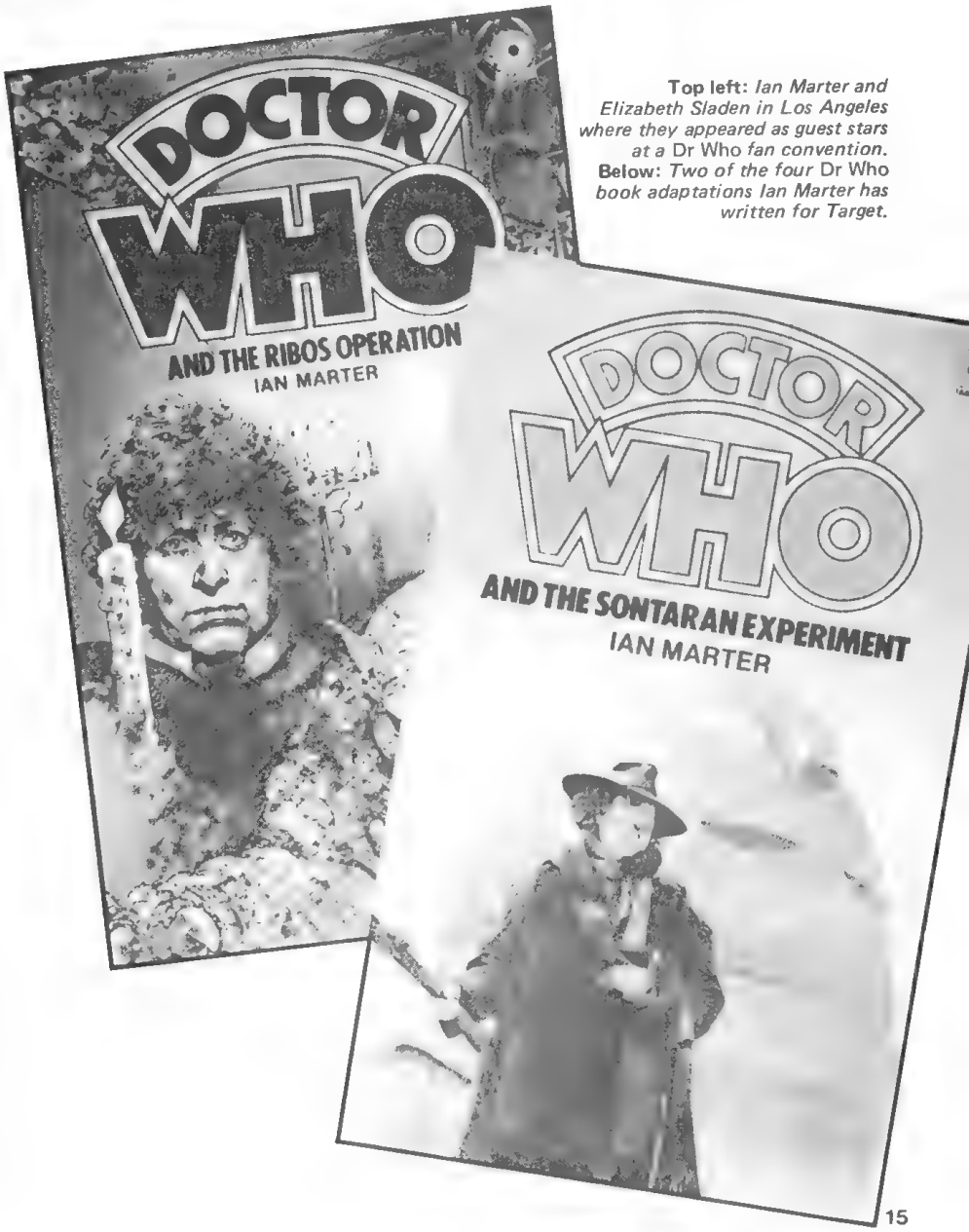
Oddly, Ian's character had been devised before the actual nature of the new Doctor had been worked out. The Producer had cast the youngest actor so far in the form of 40 year old Tom Baker, nevertheless they were unsure if he would prove as active as Jon's very dynamic portrayal. Thus Harry was created to handle the "strong arm" scenes.

However, when it became apparent that Tom was perfectly able to do action scenes, Ian's role was modified to that of a well-meaning companion known for making the odd blunder; like sliding down crevasses or triggering cave-ins. There is apparently in existence an American fan group diligently promoting a "Harry-Sullivan -is-not-an-imbecile-Campaign"!

Harry Sullivan's character worked especially well with the Doctor's other assistant at the time, Sarah Jane Smith, and the serio-comic relationship between the two won the pair a very strong and faithful fan following both here and in America.

Off stage, the friendship between Ian and Elisabeth Sladen has continued, and they both attended a two-day **Dr Who** fan convention in Los Angeles USA as guest stars!

The sudden popularity of **Dr Who**



Top left: *Ian Marter and Elizabeth Sladen in Los Angeles where they appeared as guest stars at a* Dr Who *fan convention.* **Below:** *Two of the four* Dr Who *book adaptations Ian Marter has written for Target.*

out there quite staggered Ian who found the blazer he wore as Harry Sullivan raising over £100 in the charity auction to raise money for a hospital. Later, he and Liz were able to present the hospital with a cheque from the convention for nearly £650.

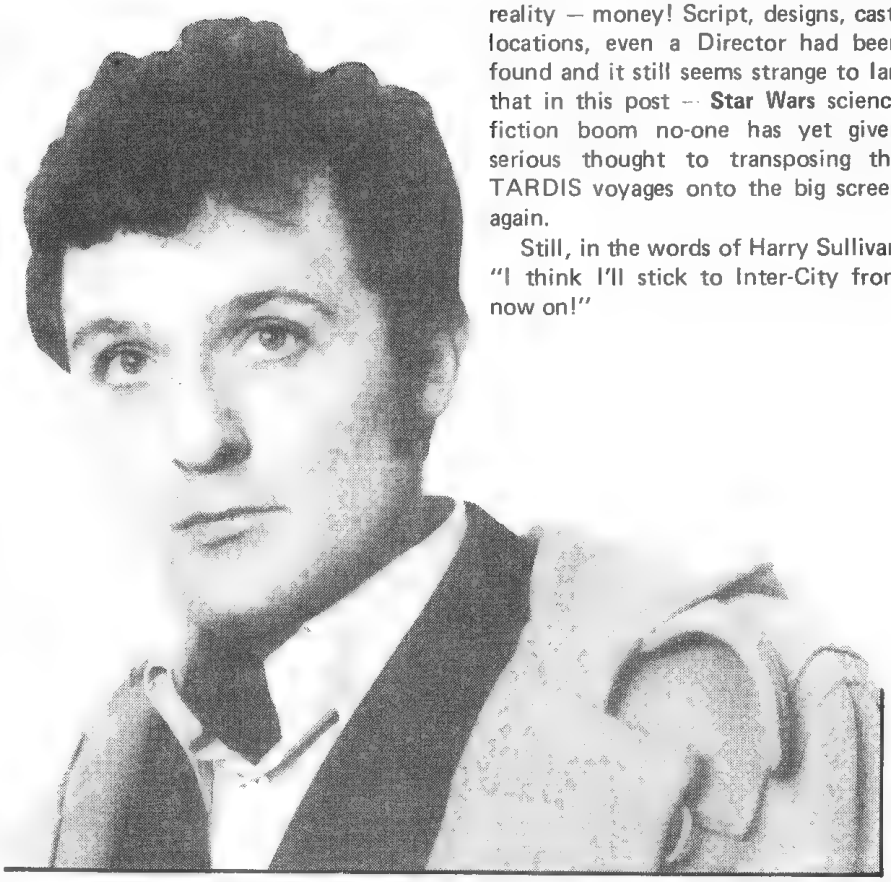
Back in England, Ian is still keeping busy. His acting talents are much in demand with rehearsals underway for a part in a forthcoming BBC production of "Elizabeth Alone". There is also talk of stage work at the Bristol Old Vic. On the writing side, he is currently working on a series of articles for the **Sunday Times Colour Magazine** concerning famous disasters, such as the Hindenberg Airship crash.

THE BLAZER IAN WORE AS HARRY SULLIVAN FETCHED £100 IN A CHARITY AUCTION!

He hopes to write again for Target's **Dr Who** series and is hoping that a script he has submitted for the 1981/82 season of **Dr Who** will be accepted.

One personal project Ian Marter regrets never having seen come to fruition is the screenplay for a **Dr Who** film which he wrote back in 1976 in collaboration with Tom Baker. The film has been sadly dogged by the lack of the one ingredient vital to make it a reality — money! Script, designs, cast, locations, even a Director had been found and it still seems strange to Ian that in this post — **Star Wars** science fiction boom no-one has yet given serious thought to transposing the TARDIS voyages onto the big screen again.

Still, in the words of Harry Sullivan, "I think I'll stick to Inter-City from now on!"



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Send your letters and drawings (in black ink only, please) to: The Doctor, Who Cares, Marvel Comics Ltd., Jadwin House, 205-211 Kentish Town Road, London N.W.5.

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

So, the Photo-file has come to a natural close, eh? But why restrict it to regular actresses and actors? Surely other people qualify too? What about John Leeson (K-9's voice) for example — not usually seen I know, though he *has* appeared in person, surely he's still a regular.

Getting away from the actors, what about the rest of the team, *ie* past and present Producers, writers, special effects and sound effects people?

Maybe you fear that many readers wouldn't be interested?

Pat Ottewell,
Derby.

No, Pat, we are so sure they would *be interested that we will be dealing with the peripheral members of the Doctor Who scene in greater detail than we could ever do in the photo-file! Watch out for features and 'Star Profiles' on people involved in various aspects of the Dr Who mythos!*

Dear Doctor,

I have just received my latest shipment of your fine magazine and I must comment that I am extremely glad to see that you've returned to the photographic covers. These covers bring about a more professional look and we also get to see some more monsters in *full horrific colour!*

Enclosed with this letter is a photo of myself. I made this Sontaran head out of latex rubber and painted it with acrylic paints. At a recent "Space: 1999" convention over here in the States I won second place in the "Fantasy Division". I thought you might be interested in seeing that the Doctor's fans sometimes like to dress up as some of the Doctor's nastier enemies!

Timothy Paxton,
Ohio, USA.

Great costume Timothy, but we don't understand why you only got second place!

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

When your fantastic magazine started a year ago you said that we, the readers, could write to you about the magazine or the TV series. Since the new series of **Dr Who** started last Saturday, this letter is concerned with the new story "The Leisure Hive".

The first episode was extremely good. The story was the most original plot the series has had for a long time, the effects are now almost as good as those on **Blake's 7**. I loved the "zero gravity" squash scene. David Fisher brought back the old "monster lurking in the shadows' sub-plot and did it quite well. Hopefully, we'll see more of the creature in part two!

Now onto the main criticism of my letter — the new title sequence. For some strange reason, the BBC have done away with the spectacular time-tunnel effect and created a new sequence which is *pathetic* in comparison! I suppose the BBC think that the new background to the titles is modern and up-to-date, but they're wrong. the old sequence was the most unique in TV history and now its gone! Even the old haunting theme-music has been altered beyond recognition! I hope that other fans agree with me.

Simon Barton,
Moreton Vaence.

We'd like to hear your thoughts in a few weeks' time on the changes that you disagreed with! In our experience, innovations often meet with a certain resistance . . . even when they are for the better!

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

I've seen the first episode of the new **Dr Who** season and it was fantastic! It's not just a new series, but a new programme. The new title sequence is great! As for the story — it was fabulous! The part where Romana is telling the Doctor about The Leisure Hive and the stars appear around the edge was the best bit of the show. The arrival of John Nathan-Turner as Producer has improved an already superb programme.

Now onto the new monthly. It's great but you've only added eight pages. The Star Profile is a good idea — you should try and interview all the past **Dr Who** Producers.

S. Golder,
Egham.

Next month sees eight extra pages added to the magazine so we hope you'll soon be as satisfied with the monthly as you obviously are with the TV show!

Dear **Dr Who Monthly**,

I think that your new-look monthly is excellent. I am pleased to see that the comic-strips are larger now.

Will *all* the stories in this new series have four parts? Is K-9 really being axed from Dr Who?

Before this new series, the programme had very good pictures at the beginning of each episode. I tried many times to take photos of them but they never came out. Please could you possible include a colour feature in **Dr Who Monthly**, showing all the pictures from the old title sequences and maybe some from the new ones.

Keep up the good work.

Simon Gartons.

As we understand it, Simon, whenever possible John Nathan-Turner (Dr Who's new Producer) prefers to use the four-part story format! — As for K-9, he will still be around, but not necessarily in every story. Incidentally, for an insight into John's feelings about Dr Who on TV, don't miss his interview in issue 27 of **Starburst** *magazine!*

THE TENTH PLANET

With a roaring belch of flaming gas, a rocket blasts off from its launch pad and soars into the inky blackness of space. The two astronauts aboard, Williams and Shultz, report back jubilantly to ground control that the Zeus IV capsule is behaving exactly to order. As the ship assumes its orbital path, monitoring of the craft is handed over to the Snowcap base of International Space Command deep under the ice of Antartica . . .

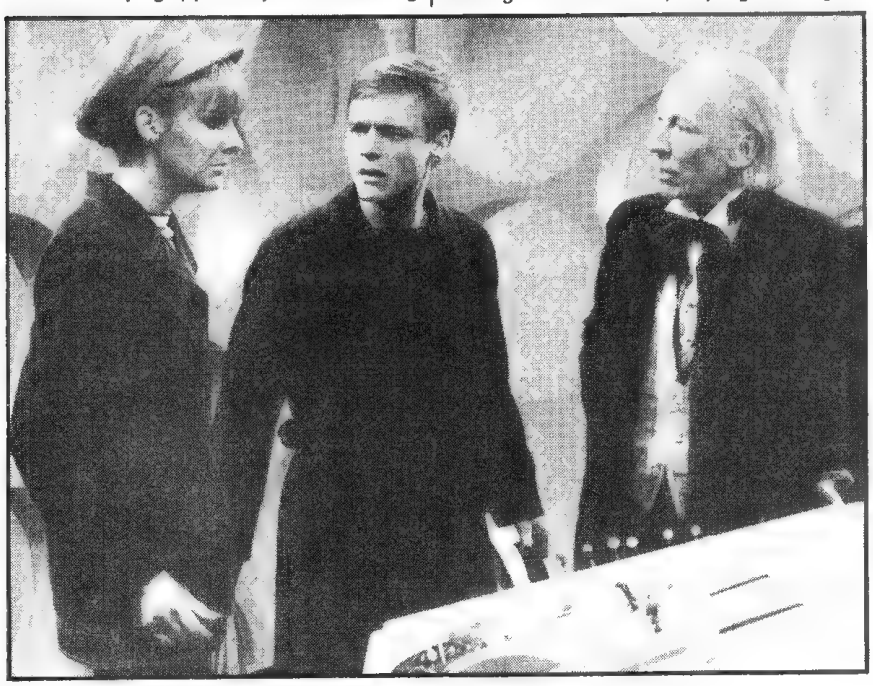
Looking very much like a reduced version of the Houston Mission Control centre, operations within the tracking room of Snowcap are supervised by the two senior scientists, Barclay; an Australian physicist, and Dyson; the chief engineer from England. Both men, however, are ultimately responsible to the Base Commander — a cigar chewing, no-nonsense American general named Cutler.

Up above, the white, icy wilderness is broken by the blue outline of a police telephone box, newly arrived and already gripped by the freezing cold.

Three figures step from the doorway clad in heavy parkas and boots; the Doctor, already complaining of the icy conditions, Ben Jackson, a merchant seaman from London 1966 and his friend Polly.

Exploring their surroundings, the three are amazed to find what appears to be a periscope protruding from the snow. Their astonishment is shared by the soldiers manning the other end of the periscope. The blue police-box and the three travellers are not common occurrences in this lonely, inhospitable region! The soldiers emerge from a concealed hatchway in the ice and take the three time travellers prisoner.

They are brought down into the base to face a hostile reception from General Cutler. He is suspicious of the three's presence here during the flight of the Zeus IV capsule. His suspicions increase alarmingly when a sudden flurry of activity reveals there to be a fault in the space craft's navigation system! Somehow the ship is way off course as though some force were acting on the craft, trying to tug it away from the Earth's gravitational field!

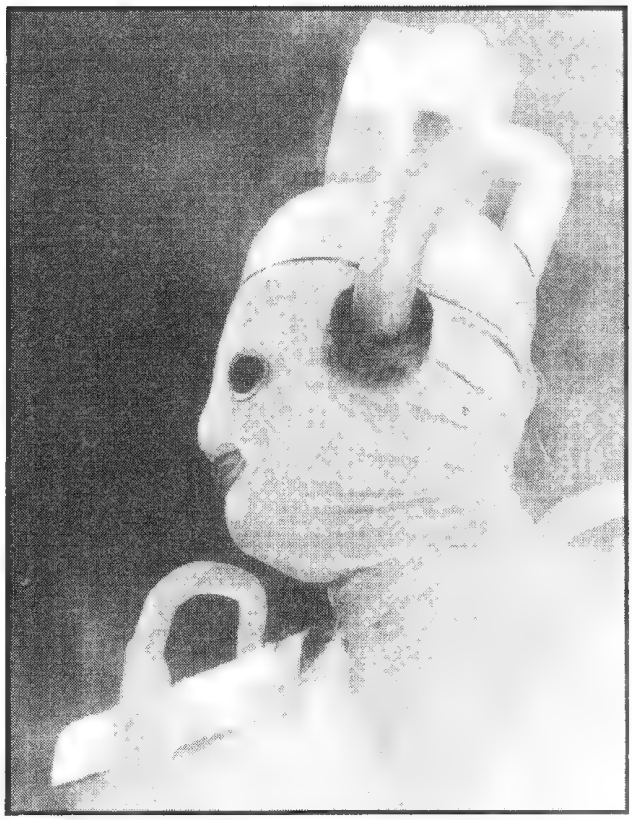


Suddenly Snowcap's instruments start detecting a new force in space that could be the cause of the emergency. The scanners lock onto it and an image begins to fill the giant viewscreen at the base. It is a planet, a rogue planet that has entered the solar system from deep space bringing the total number of worlds in the Sun's orbit to ten! Further study of this strange new world reveals an even greater mystery — the land masses on the planet would appear to be identical to the continents of Earth!

So intent are the base personnel with trying to rectify Zeus IV's increasingly erratic orbital path that none of them notice the alien craft that drifts in for a landing not far from the underground installation . . . With the blizzard now quite fierce, the spaceship's arrival is not even noticed by the three soldiers trying, in vain, to force energy into the TARDIS. Suddenly, one of the soldiers gives a shout. In the distance three figures can be seen marching towards them in perfect unison — each one clad in pale blue-silver metallic armour! Even machine gun fire fails to stop the advance of the menacing seven-foot giants and the soldiers, engaging in hand-to-hand combat with the invaders are quickly overpowered. Without a word the armoured monsters begin removing the parka jackets from the fallen men . . .

Down below, the emergency surrounding the stricken space capsule is escalating steadily. The enormous energy drain which the new planet is exerting upon Earth is drawing Zeus IV into an erratic eliptical orbit which even their retro rockets cannot correct. It seems that the astronauts face a lonely death far out in space!

With all this to worry the Snowcap staff, no-one pays any attention to the three parka-clad figures who silently enter the control room. No-one, that



Facing page: *The Doctor (William Hartnell) with his two companions, Ben (Michael Craze) and Polly (Aneke Wills).* **Above left:** *General Cutler (Robert Beatty), in charge of Snowcap Base.* **Above right:** *A Cyberman, one of the strangely human race who inhabit Earth's twin planet, Mondas.*

is, until the three reveal their mask-like faces. A guard on duty raises his machine gun but before he can fire, one of the creatures grasps a camera shaped device below his chest unit. A flash, a sudden whine of power and the soldier's body drops lifeless to the floor!

In the stunned silence that follows, one of the invaders steps forward and indentifies himself as Krail. He, and his subordinates are Cybermen from the planet Mondas — Earth's twin planet that had once orbitted our sun until it broke away and drifted freely into the stars.

As Krail speaks, his captive audience becomes aware of just how alien these Cybermen are. Although the creature's mouth opens whenever it speaks, the lips do not move at all and the voice itself sounds as though electronically boosted in some fashion.

Krail Cyber-leader explains that his brain is just human except that certain weaknesses, like emotion and feeling, have been removed. With replacement surgery highly developed on Mondas, and with these armoured exo-suits to protect them, the Cybermen represent a superior form of humanity — strong and immortal.

Ben gains first hand experience of their strength when he tries to reach for the rifle dropped by the dead soldier. Krail spots this and takes the gun from him, calmly bending it in half. Gesturing to one of the other Cybermen, Krail orders Ben to be confined. He is locked up in the base's cinema projection room.

Krail agrees to let Dyson and Barclay attempt to bring the helpless space capsule in for splash-down but warns that their efforts will fail due to Mondas' increasing magnetic pull. Grimly the scientists fight to help Shultz and Williams but their efforts prove useless — the capsule escapes Earth's orbit to go spiralling away on Krail's command . . . they will all be taken back to Mondas for conversion into Cybermen! Although the Cybermen are immortal they can no longer reproduce, they will therefore increase their race by performing the necessary operations on suitable humans.

Meanwhile, Ben has not been idle. Overpowering one Cyberman, Ben attacks the tracking room, and with help from General Cutler, Krail and the remaining Cybermen are defeated.

Cutler re-establishes contact with Mission Control only to learn that a second space capsule, Zeus V, has been launched, piloted by Cutler's son, in the hope of rescuing the two astronauts aboard the doomed Zeus IV. In despair, Cutler decides to strike the first blow in the interplanetary war between Mondas and Earth. As the General's technicians warn him of a fleet of 250 Cyber-ships now orbitting the Earth, the fanatical officer orders the terrifying Z-Bomb to be made ready. The Z-Bomb, housed at Snowcap, is a doomsday bomb that, when launched, will destroy all life on Mondas.

The Doctor protests. The radiation released by its explosion could easily affect life on Earth. Instead he proposes they should wait, arguing that the Earth's vast store of energy will eventually prove too much for Mondas and when that happens . . .

Favouring direct action, Cutler ignores him and orders the Doctor to be locked up in a bunk room. Worriedly, Polly stares at the Doctor. Usually a man of great vigour, the Doctor suddenly looks very old and very tired.

As preparations for the missile launch proceed, Barclay's doubts increase. What if the Doctor is right? He finds his views shared by Ben and

Polly and eventually agrees to let Ben try a little sabotage. Stealing into the rocket silo, Ben carrys out Barclay's instructions and immobilises part of the launching mechanism, an action which nearly costs him his life when Cutler discovers him.

The button is pressed but nothing happens. Consumed with fanaticism to save his son's life, Cutler's rationality wavers and he begins threatening the scientists with a gun, oblivious even to the warnings of a technician about another approaching Cyber-ship. Only when the harsh rattle camera guns echo around the tracking room does the truth penetrate Cutler's clouded mind, but by then he is already too late. Seeing the pistol in his hands Cyber-leader Krang blasts down the general.

The Cybermen were aware of the missile aimed at Mondas and now Krang orders Ben Dyson and Barclay to completely defuse the weapon. With Polly taken away as a hostage aboard the space ship, the others have no choice but to comply. However,

Above *Ben and Polly* **Below** *Scientists (Alan White) and Williams (Earl Cameron) desperately try to keep Zeus IV on course.* **Right:** *The appearance of a tenth planet in the solar system heralds the arrival of a peaceful race of beings known as the Cybermen! Once again the safety of the Earth is at stake and it takes all of the Doctor's wit and ingenuity to devise a way out of the situation.*

despite his dwindling strength, the Doctor is able to divine the full nature of the Cybermen's plan. After the Z-Bomb is neutralised the invaders will retreat back to Mondas and destroy the Earth!

Up in the tracking room, the Doctor directs Krang's attention to the monitor screen. Mondas is beginning to pulse light and dark as though it is absorbing too much energy. Soon, says the Doctor, the world will destroy itself. Krang orders a Cyberman to take the Doctor to their ship.

Ben, Dyson and Barclay attack the Cybermen using removed isotope rods and for a while they are successful until more re-inforcements arrive and quell the attackers. The three are preparing to face death when an excited yell from a technician diverts their attention. True to the Doctor's prophecy, Mondas is melting, cracking and splintering into myriad fragments. And as Mondas dies, so too do the Cybermen. Cut off from the energies beamed to their helmets from the planet, the silver giants crumple and perish — the weakened humanoid bodies inside the suits unable to maintain life support without their mechanical aids.

Concerned for Polly and the Doctor, Ben races to the smoking Cyber-ship. Polly is frightened but otherwise unharmed. But as for the Doctor, he is shuddering with something other than cold, appears hardly to recognise his companions, and is obsessed by a need to return to the TARDIS. He stumbles out into the snow followed by his two friends but when they get to the ship they find the Doctor has locked the doors behind him! Frantically they bang on the wooden portal until at last the doors swing open . . .

A strange sight meets their eyes. All the interior lights are dipping and pulsing and a curious electronic sound fills the air. The doors close behind Ben and Polly and the familiar sound of dematerialisation begins. Yet, it is not the ship that moves. Rushing over to the now unconcious Doctor, the two companions observe a strange transformation. Before their eyes, his face speckles and blurs as the signs of

age fall away like a snake discarding an old skin. The white hair darkens and becomes shorter, the face flushes and fills out, becoming rounder. As the shimmering dies away Ben and Polly realise they are gazing upon a new face, a new body, perhaps even a new Doctor . . .

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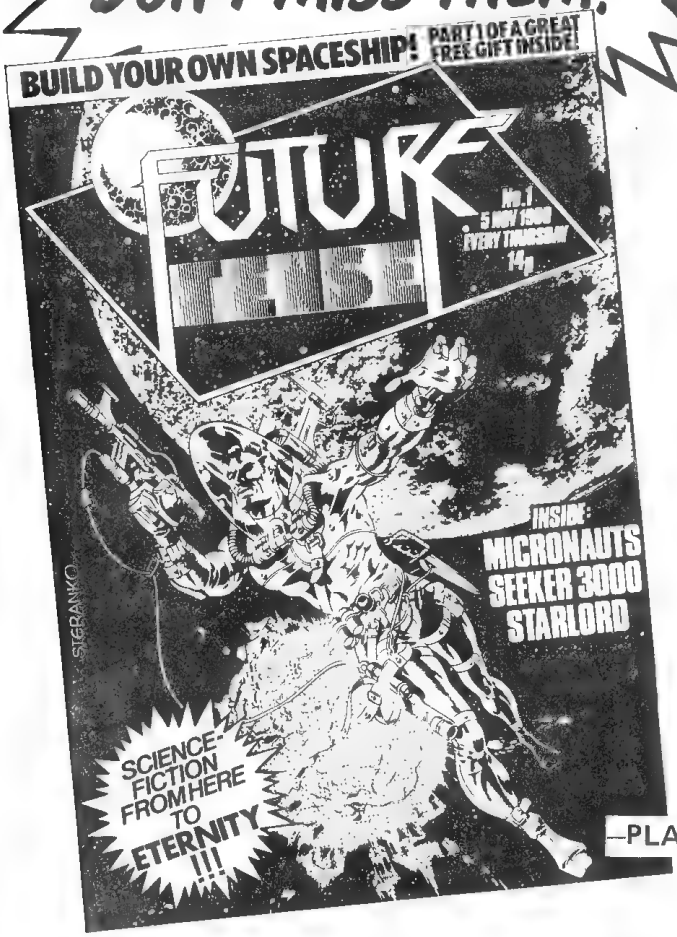

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meglos

...the last zolpha-thuran

Tigella and Zolpha-Thura are two worlds orbitting a sun in the Prion System. Yet, despite their proximity to one another each planet is the ecological opposite of its twin.

Of the pair Tigella would seem to be the more inviting with its rich oxygen environment and lush carpet of vegetation. Appearances though, as the Doctor has often had cause to remark, can be deceptive. For it was the inexorable advance of the aggressive vegetation — especially the lethal Bell Plants — that drove the pale, blonde Tigellans to adopt a subterranean existence. Building a vast underground city, warmed and powered by the energies of The Dodecahedron; the Tigellans quickly adapted to their new environment.

In many ways The Dodecahedron — said by many to have fallen from the skies — is the hub around which Tigellan civilisation revolves. The Savants, the science faction, identifiable by their short cropped hairstyles, have harnessed the energies of The Dodecahedron to maintain the city's technology. Light, heat and power all stem from the emanations of the mysterious artifact guarded day and night by the Deons. Recognised by their longer hair, the Deons are the religious half of Tigellan Society. Led by the imperious Lexa, the Deons attach a mystic importance to The Dodecahedron and will permit no-one else to enter the chamber in which it is housed.

The Savants and the Deons have equal voting rights in the Debating Chamber, though both acknowledge the leadership of the aged ruler Zastor.

Zastor himself now faces a great crisis. Something is seriously wrong with the Dodecahedron! Its power is growing more erratic each day and as its power surges grow ever wilder, so the very safety of the city is in peril. Deedrix of the Savants demands access to The Dodecahedron, so that a scientific examination of the artifact may be carried out. This would be sacrilege, retorts Lexa. If The Dodecahedron is in turmoil then it must be for a divine reason far beyond the understanding of the Savant heretics!

A stalemate ensues, but it is one that might be broken by the intervention of a third party, an alien whose mind may be wise enough to understand the true nature of the Tigellans problem. One such as the Doctor perhaps?

Above: *General Rugger (Bill Fraser) leader of the fortune hunting Gaztaks.* **Far Left:** *The Doctor (Tom Baker) confers with Lexa (Jacqueline Hill) and the aged Tigellan ruler, Zastor.* **Bottom left:** *Lexa (Jacqueline Hill) with Romana (Lalla Ward).* **Left:** *Meglos, his concentration slipping, finds his hold on the Doctor's form, increasingly difficult.*

Meanwhile, on the rolling desert surface of Tigella's twin planet of Zolpha-Thura, a group of Gaztak fortune hunters have touched down. Their leader, the doleful General Grugger, is not amused. The whole planet appears lifeless and devoid of any signs of civilisation. Only five huge, gun-metal screens standing alone in the desert give any hint that there was once an intelligent race on this planet. There is only one survivor on Zolpha-Thura — Meglos! A being who keenly watches the Gaztak's arrival, for it means that he can begin to execute an ingenious plan that will involve the Gaztaks, the Tigellans and, not least of all, the unsuspecting Time Lord whose TARDIS is even now on course for Tigella . . .

FANTASTIC FACTS

LIFE ON MARS

Despite early reports from the Viking 1 Mars probe that Mars was totally barren and devoid of life it now seems that it is just possible that the red planet does possess very simple life-forms. In examining colour images transmitted by Viking 1, scientists have observed "changes in the location of greenish rock patches and ground patterns"!

poetic injustice

333 years ago, one of our greatest poets, Ben Jonson, died in poverty and was buried in the north aisle of Westminster Abbey. Marking the spot is a small square stone with the inscription "O RARE BEN JOHNSON". This stone shows the area occupied by his coffin for he was too poor to pay for the normal grave space so he was buried standing up. The marker stone was originally bare until a passerby named Jack Young paid a mason 1/6 (7½p) to cut the mis-spelt inscription.

MONTE CARLO BY STORM

In July 1979, the world backgammon champion, Luigi Villa of Italy, was defeated 7 - 1 in a 5,000 dollar, winner take-all contest in Monte Carlo by a relative newcomer to the game. The winner's name is BKG 9.8, the first computer program ever to defeat a world champion at any game. But what does a computer program do with 5,000 dollars?

PRESIDENT RIP VAN WINKLE

David Rice Atchison was President of the United States of America for only one day! President Polk's term of office ended on Saturday, March 3rd, 1849 and the new President to be, Zachary Taylor, did not want to be inaugurated on a Sunday. As the United States cannot be without a leader for even one day the leader of the senate automatically became President. Saturday had been a very hard and tiring day for Senator Atchison, he went to bed late and slept soundly through his entire term of office as President!

ORIGAMI?

In the 17th Century a Thames waterman named John Taylor rowed the 40 miles from London to Queensborough in a boat made of brown paper using two stockfish (dried cod) tied to canes as oars!

SILENT PATRIOTISM

The Greek national anthem "Imnos pros tin Eleftheriain" is rarely sung in its entirety as it has 158 verses! How different it is from the anthems of Qatar and Bahrain (two countries in the Persian Gulf) which have no words at all.

ILLEGAL SWEETS

Chocolate was once thought to be a dangerous drug and to possess or use it was illegal.

BEYOND EINSTEIN

Over the past 10 years astronomers have discovered four distant radio sources which appear to be expanding at speeds of between 2 and 20 times the speed of light. Ever since Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity scientists have believed that nothing can travel faster than light, so what on earth (or should I say "what in space") is going on?

NATURAL SELECTION

Charles Darwin's great work "The Origin of Species", which is the basis of all modern theories of evolution, might never have been published but for a surprising coincidence. Darwin knew very well that the book would upset many people who believed that the creation story in the book of Genesis was literally true in every sense of the word, so he was very reluctant to publish it. He did not change his mind until some friends visited him one day and showed him an essay written by a young man called Alfred Russel Wallace. In this essay Wallace outlined a new theory of evolution which was not only the same as Darwin's but he even used the same name for it — *Natural Selection*. When Darwin saw this he knew that he had to publish quickly or people would say that he had stolen his ideas from Wallace!

DR. WHO RECORDS

On sale **now** is the **brand-new** theme music from BBC TV's **Dr. Who** series. Originally written by Ron Grainer this **new version** has been released by Peter Howell of the **BBC Radiophonic Workshop**. Recorded in **glorious stereophonic sound** the 7-inch disc is sold in a special **full-colour bag** and is now available in good shops around the country and costs **only £1.15!** However, to make absolutely **certain** to get your copy of this **collectors' item** why not order from the **DAP Dr. Who Mail Order Service.** At no extra cost we will ensure you get a **mint copy** of the record and deliver it to you **post free.** All you do to order is fill in the coupon below and send it, together with the correct money, to our new address:

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Still available is the **original** theme music single (in colour bag) and the **Sound Effects L.P** and **Genesis of the Daleks L.P** (which features a complete Dr. Who adventure). All these records are available from DAP.

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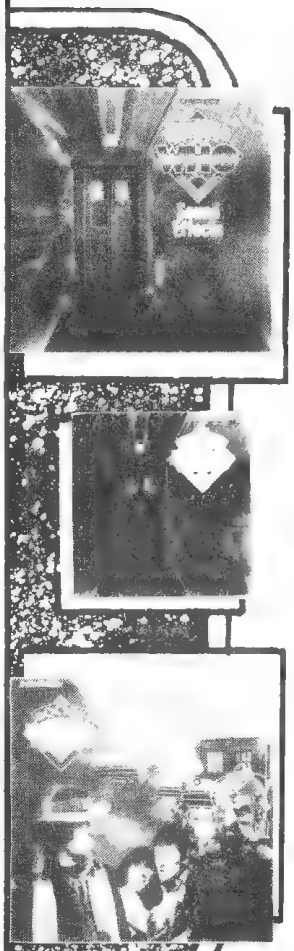

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REVIEW

THE LEISURE HIVE

Jeremy Bentham takes a look at the opening adventure of the new Dr Who series.

Craftmanship is a commodity that is visible all too rarely on our television screens, especially in a series that has been on the air for nearly seventeen years! Yet, I found the word to be one of several that came to mind as I considered my overall impression of the opening **Dr Who** story of this season — "The Leisure Hive".

The elements of stylish production, seen in embryonic form during last season's classic "The City of Death", eventually gave us this four part story that made it difficult to believe that we were watching the same show that offered "The Horns of Nimon" just eight months earlier.

I believe that much of the credit must go to the new Producer, John Nathan-Turner, who has made several innovations, not least of which were the new theme music and the new title and credit graphics, both of which have been enormously successful.

While on the subject of music I have nothing but praise for Peter Howell's incidental music score. In a recent television documentary, composer Jon Williams, pointed out what a significant part music played in creating the right atmosphere for a scene and by that token, Peter Howell's "Leisure Hive" created a perfect mood for the story. The versatility of the music spanned every emotion, from the feeling of menace engendered by the tones accompanying exterior

shots of the Hive, to the levity of the comic rendition of "I do like to be beside the Seaside" during the Brighton beach scene!

Another of the ingredients it was impossible to overlook was the change in the Doctor's costume. The abrupt switch from last year's bucanner adventurer, complete with leather knee boots, to this season's almost sombre style rather suited the changed role of the Doctor in this opening adventure. He is far more in the background now than before and I rather feel this is an innovation that will work to the programme's advantage, allowing us, the viewers, a greater chance to "get to know" the other characters in the story without being swamped by the Doctor overwhelming personality. Adrienne Corri's Mena and David Haig's excellent portrayal of Pangol were obvious focal points for a viewer's attentions, but so to were non-speaking characters like the enigmatic Klout (Ian Talbot) or the doomed Morix played by Laurence Payne. All the actors and actresses in "The Leisure Hive" came over very well, but even so, a definite feeling of presence was created as soon as the Doctor walked into a room. This I attribute , in part, to the *shadow*-like design of the Doctor's costume, for which I am prepared to forgive June Hudson for excessive use of the colour red.

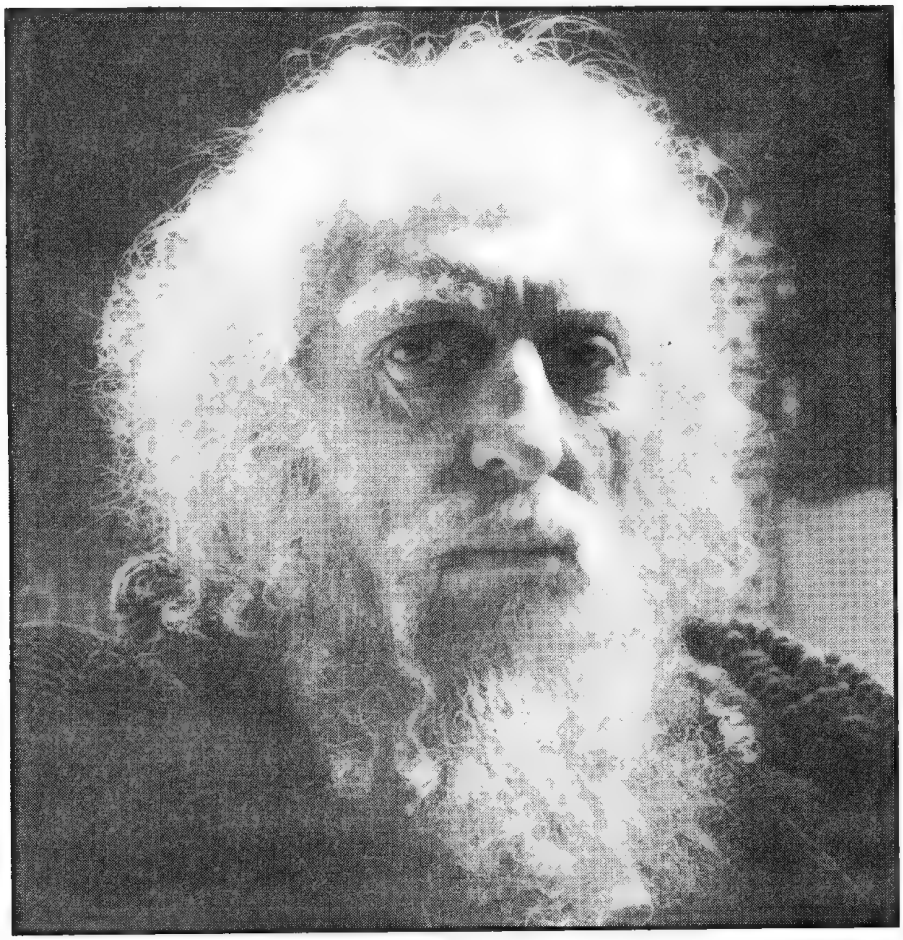
"IT IS A FACT OF LIFE THAT THE MOST TERRIBLE MONSTERS EXIST IN THE MIND . . ."

Turning to the very radical style of direction employed by Director Lovett Bickford, there is certainly no-one who could argue that every scene was not compelling viewing — cliffhanger shock endings, tantaslising glimpses of monsters, the beautiful use of colour, all worked to create a pace for the serial that has been sadly lacking in recent years. In many respects the twenty-five minute episodes seemed far shorter than they actually were!

I feel the direction failed somewhat in scenes involving the Foamasi. It is a fact of life that the most terrible monsters exist in the mind . . . Show someone a brief glimpse of an alien eye, or a three-fingered claw and immediately the imagination goes to work trying to put a shape to that monster. Thus, when episode three revealed the Foamasi reptile, it could not help but be something of a disappointment. Nevertheless, my overall impression of "The Leisure Hive" was one of pleasant surprise. Having watched **Dr Who** for seventeen years, I believed I had seen all the show could offer in the way of something new, I have been proved wrong, and to assure me of that belief I merely had to switch channels and watch ITV's competing series **Buck Rogers in the 25th Century**. It had a bigger budget, lavish models, superb special effects and some good photography, but for all that it was merely a cut-price **Star Wars**.

Dr Who has regained its crown for the most inventive science-fiction series ever undertaken, and if the subsequent serials of this season are anything as good as "The Leisure Hive" then we can rest assured that, as Robert Browning put it, "The best is yet to be"!

Above: *Romana (Lalla Ward) in the first episode of the new series.* **Below:** *The sad result of a temporal experiment that went tragically wrong.* **Facing page:** *The Doctor and Romana enjoying a visit to Brighton before journeying to The Leisure Hive.*



GALLIFREY GUARDIAN
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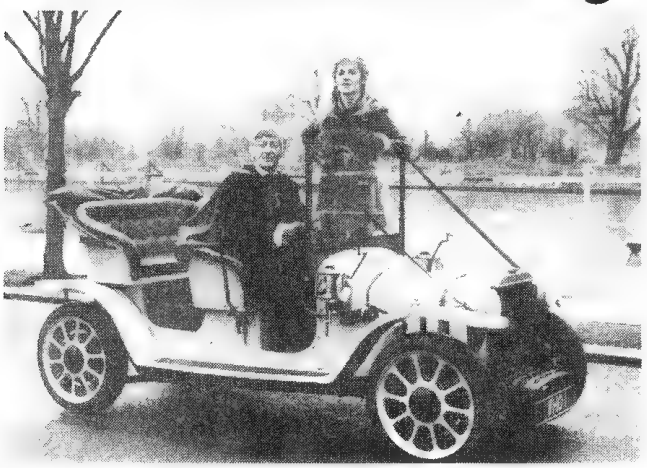
Dr Who transforms village



After seventeen years in production *Dr Who* has used a fair number of locations for its exterior scenes. Many venues from the streets of Paris to Reigate quarries have felt the tread of cameramen and sound engineers filming segments of the Doctor's colourful adventures.

Few places, however, have been taken over quite so completely as the village of Aldbourne in Wiltshire which was transformed for the 1971 story, "The Daemons", and even renamed as Devil's End. For several days animated gargoyles, a vintage yellow roadster, armed soldiers, a UNIT helicopter and a vicar with a neat, pointed beard did their utmost to disturb the peace of this otherwise peaceful piece of rural England. Nevertheless most of the local inhabitants, some of whom were roped in as extras for crowd scenes, enjoyed the display and I must thank reader Martin Spellacey for telling me that the pub sign of "The Cloven Hoof" which replaced that of "The Blue Boar" still hangs in the bar of the pub in Aldbourne. And, according to Martin, the landlord, Ray, doesn't mind photographs being taken – so long as you order a few drinks . . .

Literary changes

In this very edition of *Dr Who Monthly* you can read the full story of William Hartnell's last serial "The Tenth Planet" which leads into his regeneration to the second incarnation, as played by Patrick Troughton.

However, those of you who collect the series of Target Books may notice the discrepancy between the Doctor's changeover described in this magazine and that of the book adaptation of the story by Gerry Davis.

At the risk of appearing smug, the transcription in *Dr Who Monthly* is the authentic representation of the events seen on television back in 1966. When queried about the book alteration a few year's ago, Gerry Davis replied that he had changed the ending of the novel to make the whole thing seem a more complete entity. He went on to explain that much of the regeneration scene had carried over into the first episode of the following story "The Power of the Daleks". Thus, to have faithfully adapted "The Tenth Planet" into book form would have meant ending the novel with a cliff-hanger, and this he was advised against.

Quote of the month

DOCTOR: Never cared much for the word "impregnable" sounds a bit too much like "unsinkable".
HARRY: What's the matter with "unsinkable"?
DOCTOR: Nothing, as the iceberg said to "The Titanic"
From "ROBOT" 1974 by Terrance Dicks.

ITV challenge Dr Who's viewing figures

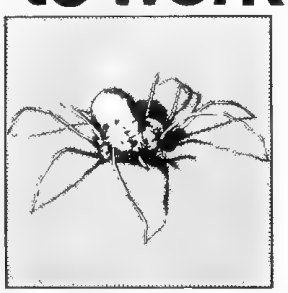
In a strong bid to upset *Dr Who*'s proven track record, ITV has scheduled the American science-fiction series *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* opposite *Dr Who* in all regions.

For many years now, Programme Planners on both channels have regarded the early Saturday evening audience as a key advantage to winning the ratings battle for Saturday viewing. As part of the BBC's Autumn/Winter schedules, *Dr Who* has traditionally linked the large audience for the sports programmes in the afternoon with the larger family audience that tunes in for the evening.

This year ITV are staking a lot on the success of *Buck Rogers in the 25th Century* due to its obvious parallels with *Star Wars*. It is an expensive series with lavish special effects and model sequences.

Many eyes will be keenly watching the audience ratings but loyal fans of *Dr Who* can take heart from one distinction between the ratings war in this country and the equivalent in America. Even if *Dr Who* does badly it will not necessarily dictate a cancellation, as the BBC takes many other factors into account.

Mat Irvine to work on new series



A welcome return to *Dr Who* for Mat Irvine who will be taking time away from the pressures of writing for *Starburst* magazine to work on "Warrior Gate", the provisional title for the fifth *Dr Who* story of this season written by Steve Gallagher.

Arguably the best known behind-the-scenes face in *Dr Who*, Mat has worked on special effects for the programme since 1972, when he handled the scene of the TARDIS falling down a mountain slope for "The Curse of Peladon".

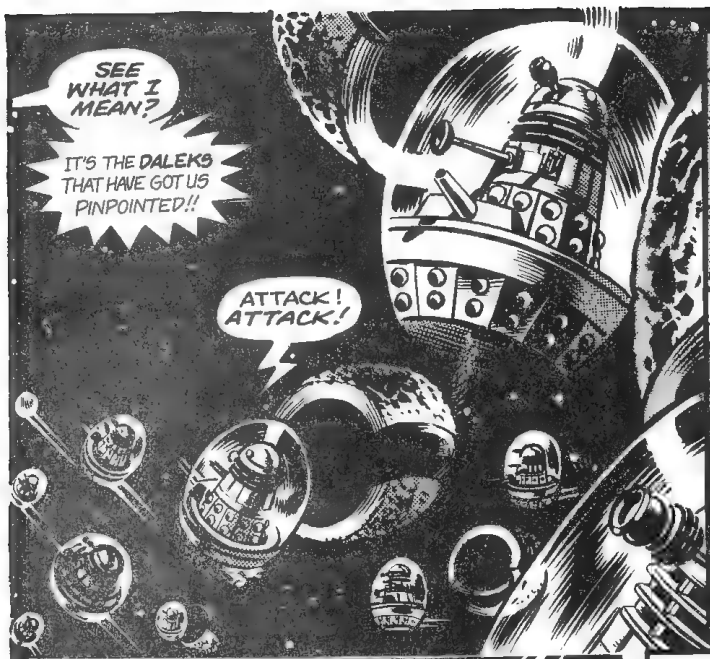
Since then, he has assisted on other *Dr Who* productions, including "Frontier in Space", before being handed complete charge of special effects for the story "Pyramids of Mars", for which he designed and built such artifacts as the Marconiscope, and the landscape of future Earth as left by the passing of Sutekh.

The piranha-like Horda creatures were his creation for the 1977 serial "Face of Evil" while for "The Invisible Enemy" he contributed the Titan shuttle craft model.

Mat provided a whole array of props for "The Stones of Blood" including the tripod-mounted "beam machine", Miss Fey's wand and the model of the Stone circle used for several scenes where it would have been impossible to use the location shots.

A frequent guest at conventions and exhibitions, Mat is perhaps best known for his appearances on "The Multi Coloured Swap Shop" where he demonstrated Boris the mechanical spider – used in "Planet of the Spiders" – to the arachiphobic Noel Edmonds. Watch out for him at Marvel's upcoming convention in October!

STAR TIGERS
ABSLOM DAAK, DALEK-KILLER, AND PRINCE SALANDER BRING THE KILL-WAGON UP FROM THE PLANET DISPATER, HAVING JUST SNATCHED THEIR FOURTH CREW-MEMBER FROM THE JAWS OF AN INVADING ARMY OF KILL-MECHS...
SOME SHIP YOU'VE GOT HERE, DAAK...WHERE'D YOU HIJACK HER?
I DIDN'T... SALANDER BUILT HER FOR THE DRACONIAN FLEET...
THEN HE HIJACKED HER...
STANDARD INSTRUMENTATION, I SEE...
YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH DRACONIAN SHIPSSS THEN, MERCURIUSS?
SURE...I'VE HIJACKED A FEW MYSELF...
HMM...WE SSSEEM TO BE APPROACHING A CLUSSTER OF ORBITTING METEOROIDSSS...
MAYBE WE GET SOME TARGET PRACTISE?
NO WAY, HARMA, THIS SCREWBALL EMPEROR FROM JARITH MUST HAVE SENT WAR-SHIPS ALONG WITH HIS KILL-MECHS.. AND THEIR SENSORS'D PICK UP OUR FIRE AND PINPOINT OUR POSITION!
BUT SUDDENLY...
WHAT THE BLASTED..? I SAID...
WHAT YOU SAID DOESN'T MATTER...
THE KILL-MECHS DON'T MATTER!
ZZZUNK!!
DISCOVERED! DISPOSE OF DISGUISE-CASING!


SEE WHAT I MEAN?
IT'S THE DALEKS THAT HAVE GOT US PINPOINTED!!
ATTACK! ATTACK!

DALEK SPACE-COMMANDO UNITS!
HARMA... REAR TURRET! I'LL TAKE THE FRONT... YOU HANDLE THE AUTOMATICS, MERCURIUS!

SCATTER AND FIRE AT WILL! THEY MUST NOT ESCAPE!
THEY'RE CLOSING IN! BLAST THEM!

THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! I COULD KEEP ON VAPORISING THOSE BLASTED PEPPER POTS TILL JUDGEMENT DAY!

BUT...
TAKE US OUT OF HERE, SALANDER... FAST!
THIS IS JUST AN ADVANCE SQUAD... THEIR MAIN INVASION FORCE WILL BE ON THE WAY... TO STRIKE WHEN WE ARE ALREADY TIED UP IN A WAR OF OUR OWN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SALANDER? TURN THIS SHIP AROUND!
IGNORE HIM... MAINTAIN THIS COURSE AND DROP TO CRUISING SPEED FOR SIX HOURS...
THEN WE TURN ROUND!

WHY WAIT TWELVE HOURS? I WANT TO HIT THEM NOW!
AND YOU'LL FIND THEM ON FULL ALERT...
BUT IN TWELVE HOURS THEY'LL HAVE MOPPED UP THE KILL MECHS AND FEEL THEMSELVES SECURE...

BY THEN THE MAJORITY OF DALEK-UNITS WILL HAVE RETURNED TO THE COMMAND SHIP TO RECHARGE THEIR POWER-PACKS! WE CAN TAKE THEM ALL AT ONCE!

HOW COME YOU KNOW SO MUCH? HOW'D YOU KNOW THOSE METEORS WERE DALEKS?
FORGET IT, HARMA... YOU WOULDN'T GET ANY ANSWERS OUT OF HIM ...AND IF YOU DID, THEY WOULDN'T BE STRAIGHT!

SEE WE STILL UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER, DAAK! I'LL START WORKING ON A WAY TO DESTROY THAT COMMAND SHIP...
THE HELL YOU WILL! I'M RUNNING THIS SHIP, MERCURIUS ...NOT YOU!

BUT EVEN SO...
YOU'RE WASSSTING YOUR TIME! YOU HEARD WHAT DAAK SSSAID... HE'LL WANT TO DO IT HISSS WAY...
DON'T COUNT ON IT, SALANDER! HE'LL COME ROUND... WE GO WAY BACK...

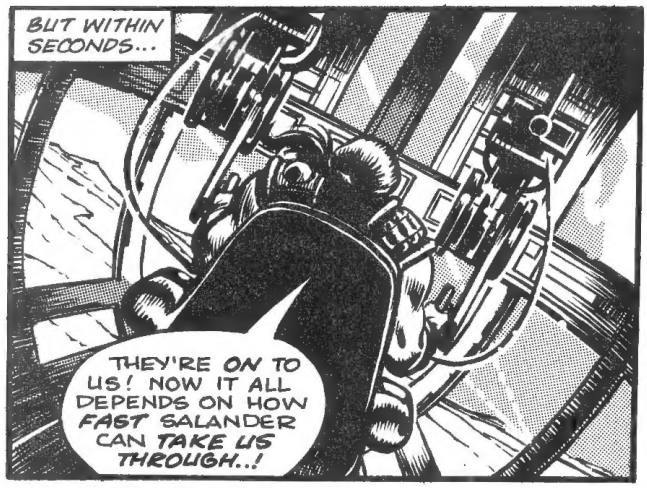
WHEN THE CLOCK HAS ALMOST TURNED FULL CIRCLE...
HEY, DAAK! IT'S TIME..!
WISH YOU COULD SEE THIS, TAIYIN! WE'RE GOING TO MAKE THEM PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID TO YOU... AND THEN THEY'RE GOING TO KEEP PAYING..!

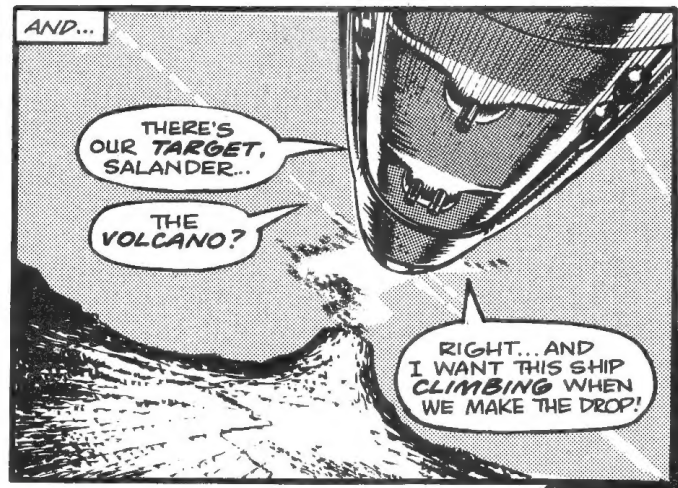
AND...
ALRIGHT, MERCURIUS... WHAT HAVE WE GOT TO DO?
ALL YOU DO IS WHAT YOU LIKE BEST! TAKE THE FRONT TURRET AND BLAST EVERYTHING IN SIGHT!
SALANDER AND I'LL DO THE REST!

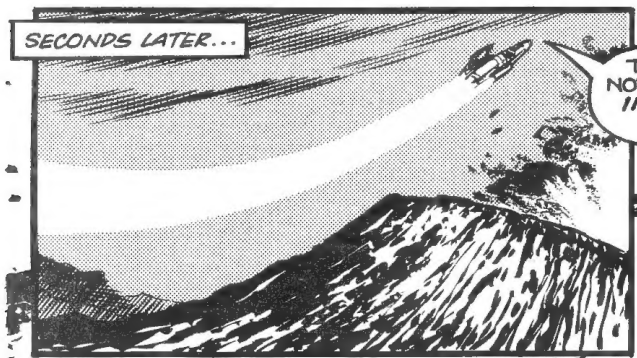
WE'LL COME IN AT LOW-LEVEL AND HIT HERE... PUT DOWN A COUPLE OF NUKES... THAT SHOULD DO IT!
BUT THAT'SSS TOO FAR FROM THE COMMAND-SHIP!
AND WE MIGHT NOT MAKE IT AWAY FROM THERE...

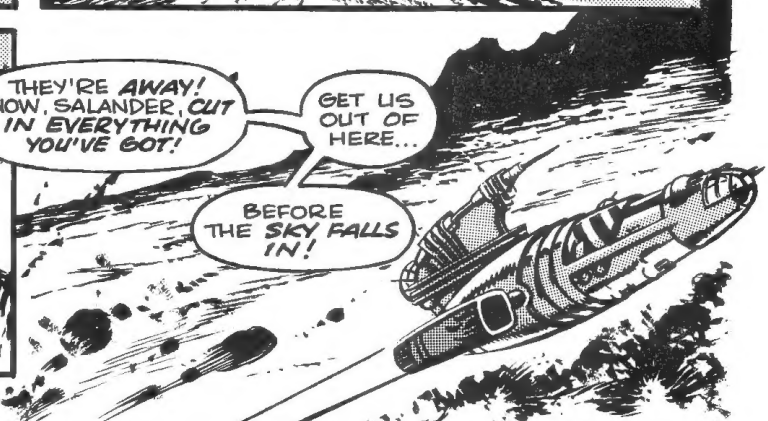
DO IT, SALANDER... JUST LIKE HE SAYS...
HIS LIFE'S ON THE LINE, TOO REMEMBER?

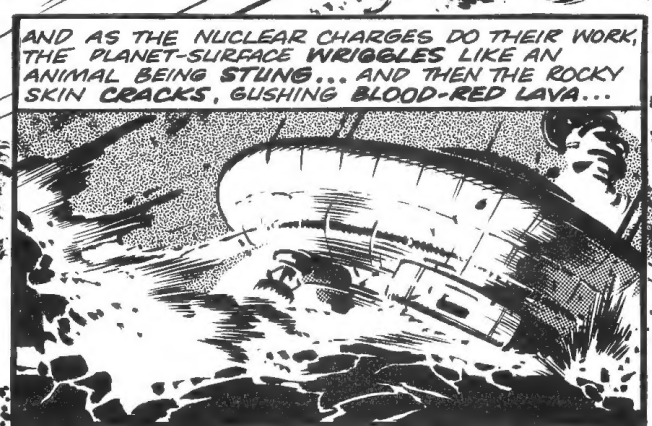
AND SO, TEN MINUTES LATER...
HOPE YOU BUILT THIS CRATE STRONG, SALANDER... ..IF THE WINGS TEAR OFF...
AH, WELL... WE'D PROBABLY ALL BE DEAD BEFORE WE HIT THE GROUND, ANYWAY...


BUT WITHIN SECONDS...
THEY'RE ON TO US! NOW IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW FAST SALANDER CAN TAKE US THROUGH..!

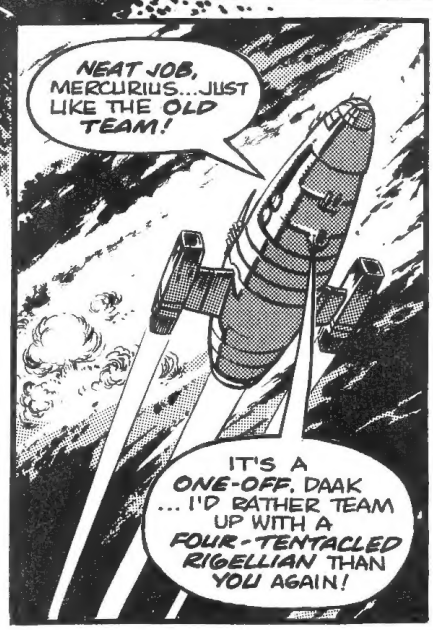

AND...
THERE'S OUR TARGET, SALANDER...
THE VOLCANO?
RIGHT... AND I WANT THIS SHIP CLIMBING WHEN WE MAKE THE DROP!


SECONDS LATER...

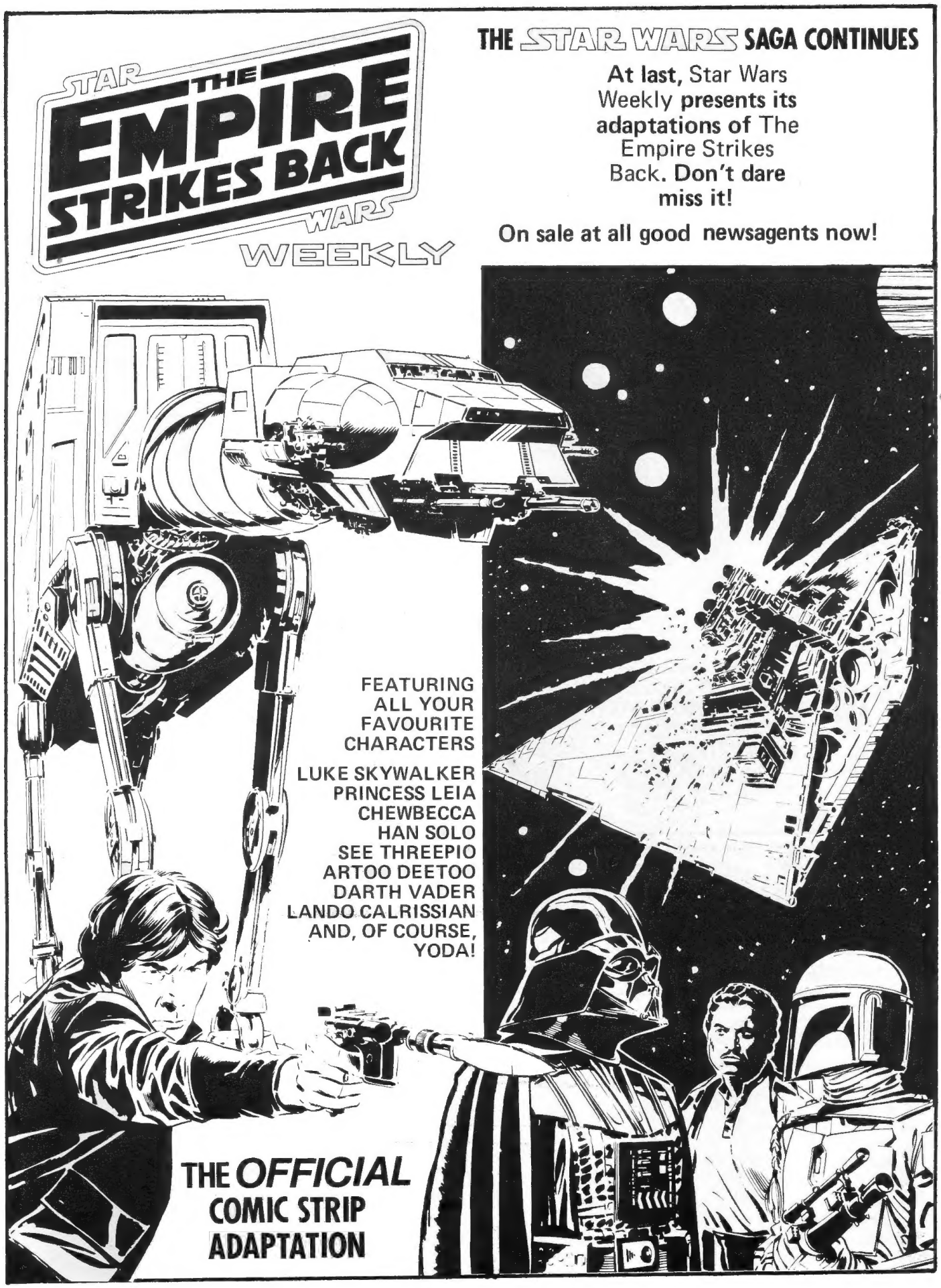

THEY'RE AWAY! NOW, SALANDER, CUT IN EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!
GET US OUT OF HERE...
BEFORE THE SKY FALLS IN!


AND AS THE NUCLEAR CHARGES DO THEIR WORK, THE PLANET-SURFACE WRIGGLES LIKE AN ANIMAL BEING STUNG... AND THEN THE ROCKY SKIN CRACKS, GUSHING BLOOD-RED LAVA...

WHICH BURNS OUT EVERYTHING FOR FIFTY MILES AROUND...
TERMINATED! AKK- ZZKZ- ZZKK!
KA-ROOOM!


NEAT JOB, MERCURIUS... JUST LIKE THE OLD TEAM!
IT'S A ONE-OFF, DAAK ... I'D RATHER TEAM UP WITH A FOUR-TENTACLED RIGELLIAN THAN YOU AGAIN!

BUT I SEEM TO REMEMBER YOU DID THAT FOR A WHILE..!
YEAH, BUT SHE WAS PRETTIER THAN MOST...
BUT IN THE END I THOUGHT THOSE THREE MOUTHS WERE GOING TO TALK ME TO DEATH..!
THE END... FOR NOW...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